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April 1998

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

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O-Beat



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Officers and Directors

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 Secretary: Al Vrooman NØCMW 520-5550
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*This Officer/Director is completing the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected.

The O-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see the last page of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page, \$48; Half page, \$24; Quarter page, \$12; Business card, \$6. These rates are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Check out the PPRAA page on the World Wide Web! Go to: <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa>

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements is the Monday after Board meeting. Submissions are accepted in any form. Articles should be sent directly to the O-Beat Editor (email to kdøju-1@juno.com is preferred.) Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

License Exams

License examinations sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association are held on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Testing takes place at 9 A.M. at:

Denver Technical College
 225 South Union
 Colorado Springs

Everyone is seated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an exam should bring the following items:

1. \$6.25 (preferably a check/money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.

3. A copy of your current amateur radio license, and/or a copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the signed original. We keep the copies.

4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any questions, call Erik Mugele, KGØXE at 596-5345. Please do not call Denver Technical College.

Committee Chairpersons/Contacts

O-Beat Editor	Bill Pierce	KDØJU	550-0406
Activity	Renay Boyes	KAØROY	229-5703
Auditing	Any Volunteer's?		
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
Historian	Jody Borst	KAØROZ	634-3995
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	532-1439
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995
Programs	Aaron Pelouze	KD6FLM	282-9715
Publicity	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
Swapfest '98	Carlos Caro	KBØREI	632-1569
Technical Instruction	Linda Hedges	KBØRKW	520-9238
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE	596-5345

Other Organizational Liaisons

ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
CCARC Liaison	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352
RACES Liaison	Bryan Curl	NØLUF	575-8400

Reminder — General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be on the second Wednesday of this month at the Irving Middle School 1702 N. Murray. The meeting will start at 1900.

ANNOUNCEMENT

April Meeting

April PPRAA meeting place will be back at Mt Calvary Luthern Church 1318 N Circle at 1900. All are welcome to come and observe and/or participate. NG5N will talk about construction techniques

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be at QTH of Ron Deutsch on April 13th. Directions forthcoming via email.

PPRAA Swap Fest In MAY

Directions to the PPRAA Swapfest from our web page:

From I-25: Take Exit 146 (Garden of the Gods.) Go East (the road name changes to Austin Bluffs Parkway.) You will pass the University of Colorado campus and cross Academy Blvd. Proceed about another mile to Barnes Road and go east (Austin Bluffs Pkwy is northbound at this point.) Doherty High School is on the right a few hundred feet from Austin Bluffs Pkwy, just past the Skate City. Enter the second parking lot on right. (After the school sign.)

73/Rob
N7LV

From the Membership Chair.

Please welcome new members

Kyeong Sook Kim, HL1OWC, Michael Martin, N0OCZ; Kathryn Martin, N0YTQ; Mike Anderson,

WV7T; Rhoda Anderson, KB2BZY; Anthony DalLago, KC4VMB; Greg Richtenburg, WB6IWY.

The following need to contact the Treasurer:

KB0CY, Bob; KB0IAP, Michael; KB0RAE, Steve; KB0RLD, James; KB0RLG, James; KB0UVD, Darryl; KC0TQ, Harley; KC5LXC, Phil; KD0NB, Ed; KO6TN, John; KC6NEJ, Margee; N0CYR, Jake; NODDF, Bud; N0IEM, Frank; N0QWO, Colleen; N0QYW, John; N0XWW, Chuck; N9HSW, Larry; W0MXY, Hal; W0VO, Ed; and WA0TBJ, Kirby.

Thanks Les KC0NC

President's Corner

By Greg Tarcza, WA2OOD

April, 1998

Presidents Corner

Well, we survived another snowstorm (thanks to all who helped out with communications during that period) and Spring is here again. Time to tweak antennas and start doing other outdoor stuff... after the back pain from shoveling snow goes away!

Thanks to Irving Middle School and Ralph Juarros, the principal, for the use of the school for our last meeting. The auction went really well and it looked like everyone enjoyed it. The club even made a couple of bucks on the event. Special thanks go to Ron, NK0P, for running the auction. He did a great job. I am aware of only two people that did not stick around for the auction (something about being hungry!) and that is some kind of a record for us. We even had a request afterwards to hold auctions twice a year!

I don't know about twice a year, but it might be fun to make it an annual thing.

For my part, it was easy to keep the business meeting short. I had just got back into town the previous day from a trip to Virginia to visit my son, NØYTO, which included a 2-day, 3-night cruise on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz which had just returned from a 6 month deployment. A long, detailed meeting wasn't very high on my priority list!

It looks like we are still on track to have one of our best swapfests ever. We have more people on the swapfest committee than I can remember (although that seems to happen more frequently as I get older) and things appear to be well organized. I'm sure that additional help for setup, cleanup and other areas would be welcomed. If you would like to help out, please see anyone on the swapfest committee.

Jeff Boyes still needs your ideas and help with programs. Please give him a call and let him know what you want to see at the meetings. Better yet, offer to do a program or at least help with one.

Hmmm, I just realized that I didn't stick any "deep" messages in the column this month. I must be mellowing out! Maybe next month. I'll see you at the meeting (at the Church this month!). This would be a good time to start gathering your goodies to bring to the swapfest!

Greg Tarcza, WA2OOD

From your Activities Director!!!

Hams and Eggs

The monthly activity for April will be Hams and Eggs. We will be meeting at Fox Run Park at 12:00 on April 18th. Bring a picnic lunch and plan on having fun. To get to Fox Run: Take Highway 83 to North Gate Road, turn to the West. Go to Roller Coaster Road, turn north and go until you get to the Main Entrance of Fox Run Park. I believe there are picnic tables there but if they have moved them I will put up signs directing you to the picnic area. See you there. Remember there will be a prize for the winner.

Remember in the March Ø-Beat I mentioned an idea to get you all excited in participating in club activities?

Well here it is:

I am going to start handing out playing cards in April. These cards will be kept by you until the Christmas Party in December, where we will see who has the best Poker hand. The best hand takes home \$100.00. To get cards all you have to do is show up for the monthly activities that I tell you about in my monthly column. This will include the monthly FoxHunts and the Activity Saturdays. Now, if for some reason I can't make an event, I will have someone there to hand out the cards. You cannot get cards at meetings or the Saturday Morning Breakfasts, but please attend these functions too.

73,

Renay- KAØROY

OM/YL

LUNCH BUNCH

Due to heavy snowfall last months lunchbunch was cancelled. So on the 16th of April The Country Buffet at the Citadel Crossing Shopping Center will be the loaction of the next Lunch Bunch.

We meet at noon, but some arrive earlier. Everyone is cordially invited!

If you have a question our phone is 471-9965.

73

WAØMNL, Rosie

General Membership Meeting

February 11, 1997

Meeting called to order by president WA2OOD at 19:00. He introduced Ralph Juarros principal of Irving Middle school. (Where we are meeting tonight). Minutes of Feb. meeting were approved with

two corrections. The silent key Bob NØRNQ reported was W9YYO. The silent key reported by George WBØDUM was W9MHL. Al NØCMW read treasurers report as Rob was attending VE testing for Ham radio class.

Treasurers report for period ending 2/28/98.
Balance across all accounts is \$3,829.36.
Income for month was \$277.00 from membership.
Expenses for month were:
Zero Beat printing for 2 months was \$275.86.
We spent \$32.00 for tables at other swapfests to sell tickets, \$24.00 for video tapes from ARRL, \$75.00 for picnic and meetings, and \$60.00 for home brew awards. Total expenses were \$466.86, leaving us with an outgoing cash flow of \$189.86.

Committee Reports:

Swap Fest Rosie WAØMNL next planning meeting will 1st Saturday in April at Falcon division Police station on North Academy; buy your tickets now. Phil KC5LXC has agreed to be chairman for swapfests, Bob KIØGF has agreed to be co-chairman. Swapfest May 2nd.

Activity:

Jody, KAØROZ, for Renay, KAØROY, reminder of April activity. April 18th at 12:00 noon we will meet at Fox Run Park in Black Forest for a picnic lunch. With activity she would like to call Ham and Eggs, prizes involved.

Public Service Mike KØTER nothing

CCARC: Ron NKØP next meeting in Aurora on 28 March. Would like to invite them to hold next meeting here.

Technical Instruction Linda KBØRKW

Code only class starting April 13, 1998, at Tesla Society. Class is free but code oscillator kit will cost \$20.00, kit to be built in class. Contact Dave ABØGO at 719-594-9201 for more info or to enroll.

Interference: Bill, NØNJX. One case of interference 60hz noise, tracked down to neighbors house who was very cooperative, after testing all possible

sources turned out to be an electric fence for dogs which had just been repaired, after rewiring it noise was gone.

OLD Business

Doug WBØMHP brought up where is QSL board, president WA2OOD, said he would track it down.

New Business

Dave NØUVR reported that YL net was moving to 146.79 repeater on Monday 16th March 1998.

NØEOP Dave wanted to know if any one knew where the old Pikes Peak chapter of ten-ten records were as trying to form a chapter here meeting about this
at Country Kitchen in Widefield on 21st at 2pm.

Hammy award: Moe WBØRTF presented the award to Dave NØUVR.

Next board meeting will be at qth of Bill NØNJX. Program tonight was an auction conducted by Ron NKØP of various items brought by members. It was liked very much and comments were let's have it again.

Meeting adjourned at 21:00.

Submitted by Secretary Al NØCMW

BOARD MEETING

March 16th, 1997

The March 16, 1998 Board Meeting was called to order by the President Greg WA2OOD at 6:58 p.m. Those present were Jeff NØJLH, Bill KDØJU, Moe WBØRTF, Rob N7LV, Bill NØNJX, Ron NKØP, Jody KAØROZ, Les KCØNC, and Renay KAØROY (acting secretary)

Programs - Jeff reported that with the help of Ron we have programs for the next two months. April is Construction Techniques (Nick KG5N) and May is Six Meters (Ron NKØP and Rick KØSU.)

Activities - Renay submitted her and Ron's idea of using playing cards for bringing people out to different events. At the end of the year, the person holding the best poker hand wins a prize at the Christmas Party. Jeff made a motion second by Bill to authorize a \$100.00 prize. The motion passed.

Ø-Beat - Bill brought Jeff the last years Ø-Beat on disk for possible use on the web page. He also reported that the deadline for the Ø-Beat would be the Monday following the Board meeting. Les commented that the membership articles have not been printed in the Ø-Beat for the last 3 months. He has been sending the information by e-mail as requested by Bill and has had confirmation that the e-mail was sent. He has also been sending the articles well before the dead line.

Treasurers Report - Rob handed out many club applications at the last class. Les reported that we made \$151.75 at the auction held last meeting.

Publicity - Ron brought in an information sheet for the Board to look at and give him comments by next Board Meeting.

He also reported that the foxhunt was a great success and that Doug will be the next fox. He won by 1/10 of a mile. Ron will also be checking into the availability of making a DF antenna for a project night at a future meeting.

He brought up the idea of having an auction at the swapfest. He will work out the details with the swapfest committee.

~~X~~ CCARC - Ron reported that the CCARC needs to have a meeting on the same day as our swapfest. He suggested that we get a room at the swapfest. Rob will find out about a room. Some CCARC members have volunteered to hold some forums for us to help justify the cost of an additional room. Rob will talk to the swapfest committee.

Ron suggests that we host the meeting of the CCARC in September. Les made a motion that he be allowed to spend up to \$50.00 for the purpose Jeff second.

The motion passed. Rosie has volunteered to organize a luncheon.

Ron also stated that he will ask about getting support for the ARRL division convention, at the next CCARC meeting.

Who has the QSL Board? Please let the Board know if you know where it is.

The next Board Meeting will be at Ron's.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm by Jeff.

Respectfully submitted by Renay KAØROY

Treasurer's Report for period ending 02/28/98

Balance across all accounts is \$3,829.36.
Income for the month was \$277 from memberships.
Expenses for the month were:
Zero Beat printing for 2 months was \$275.86.
We spent \$32 for tables at other swapfests to sell tickets, \$24 for a video tape from the ARRL, \$75 for picnic and meetings, \$60 for home brew awards.

Total expenses were \$466.86, leaving us with an outgoing cash flow of \$189.86.

Rob
N7LV

From the Editor

I would like to thank the following people for articles submitted: President Greg, WA2OOD; Les, KCØNC; Rob, N7LV;; Al, NØCMW; Rosie, WAØMNL; KAØRKW, Linda ; and a big thanks to Renay, KAØROY for being acting Secretary!

MIR CONTACT

Space Chat Moves Kids' Goals Out of This World!

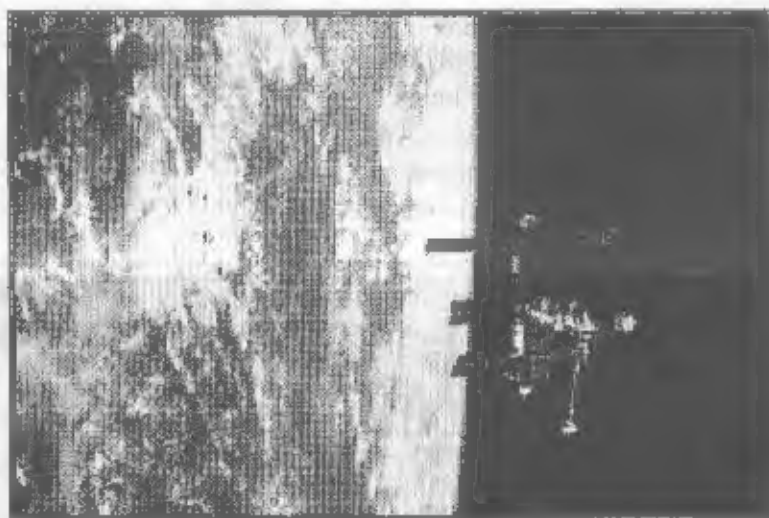
For the ten children selected to ask their question to Astronaut Andy Thomas, and for the 300-plus other children, the teachers, and the rest of the community listening, the excitement fever won't long be forgotten. On February 24, after about 4 years of planning and waiting, students at Prairie Hills Elementary School (PHE) finally had their chance to ask their questions directly to Thomas as he passed overhead aboard Mir, 260 miles above Earth. At exactly 9:07 am Mir rose above the horizon in the southwest sky, sped toward the NE horizon at 17,000 mph, then disappeared in 10 minutes. During that time, Thomas briefly described his role aboard Mir, then answered 6 of the 10 questions waiting for him before he was gone. Right afterward, two other experts, Maj Mike Caylor of the USAFA and Eric Joern, former astronaut trainer, answered the rest of the questions, then dozens more from the audience of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Space Seed Sown

The project began early in 1994 while I was on a field trip with my daughter's then second grade class and teacher Debbie Thiem. I had been reading many SAREX articles and decided it was time to bring SAREX to Prairie Hills. Initially, I thought it would be a fairly small event with the station set up in a classroom. After filling out an application form and seeing what really is expected when a school gets involved, the project was much larger than one person could handle, and the PPRAA quickly became part of the picture. Then president Steve Westby WB7VHR

agreed to have the PPRAA be the sponsor for this SAREX contact.

The application process spanned the summer of 1994, because school was out before we could get all the answers. NASA and the ARRL wanted to know how we were going to involve as many people as possible in the educational aspects and what kind of media coverage we were going to get. At that time, I hadn't talked to many people, and the contact was still very conceptual in nature. So, I identified a modest station, consisting of a beam and rotor, and a VHF mobile transceiver. Simple, but adequate; minimally acceptable. It wasn't until after Frank Bauer of AMSAT called me in 1997 that I realized the contact was about to come true, and began to seek out some "real" satellite radio equipment.



(Photo by NASA)

Planning and Ideas

When Frank called in February 97, he gave me many ideas to think about, ideas about equipment, antennas, people, projects, displays, teachers, etc. At the Feb PPRAA club meeting Jeannie George KBØQFY stood to announce a space fair at West Middle School. They were to have moon

rocks, an astronaut suit on display, several simulators, and guest speaker Dr Ron Sega KC5ETH. I visited the school during that space fair, and found even more interesting things, such as a partially complete shuttle cockpit simulator. Their plans were to install a SAREX transceiver in that simulator. All of these ideas fed my thoughts about trying to schedule our Mir contact in conjunction with a math or science fair at PHE. Unfortunately, as only time would tell, scheduling to any degree of reliability was not possible.

Several of us did a quick site survey to check out places to install the antennas and set up equipment in the gym. The gym had a nice PA system and we could easily pipe the audio from the radio into the PA

so all could hear. An antenna installed right above the



(Photo by NASA)

gym's west door would make it easy to drop a few coax runs right into the gym. District 20's Ron Horne installed a steel pipe as our mast. Equipment donations began flowing in. Ed Means WØVO wasn't using his transceiver and rotor so it was pegged for the contact.

All in all, I received loans of two Yaesu FT-726Rs, an az-el rotor, several power supplies and RF amplifiers, and a few antennas. Tom McDaniel offered his FT-736R, but was using it daily so he held it until needed.

Set-up, Tear-down, Set-up Again!

Quite soon after we had our equipment set up, equipment started failing on Mir. We all remember the fire, the collision, and the antenna problems. The life threatening situations on Mir put our contact in a holding pattern. Summer vacation came and went, and with it came the return of some of the equipment as owners prepared for the proposed launch of Phase IIID. With no word of a contact pending, school started up again with no antenna installed at PHE. Meanwhile, my daughter, originally in 2nd grade at PHE, was now attending Timberview Middle School and would likely not be a cast member for the contact.

By November, we again received word from AMSAT that the contacts would resume in December, so the call went out again for equipment and for help assembling the station. Despite darkness, below-freezing wind chills and plenty of frozen fingers and toes, a crew of hams were up on the roof of PHE installing and testing the rotor and antennas. The work crews put in time after normal work and school hours during the week, when we could access the roof. By the time we got word of a specific date/time, all equipment and cables were in place.

Final Countdown

On February 16, word came down that our date/time was Feb. 24 at 0907. Finally, after several years of waiting and disappointing the students, we went full steam ahead - I felt that this time was for real. Now, all the plans we had discussed had to be put into action. Up until now, every time we discussed this contact we couldn't get commitments for any kind of support because we didn't have a specific date. Now, with our date only a week away, I was beginning to wonder whether things could happen in only a week. Fortunately, with the help of many people from the club and community, everything fell into place. Since we knew the date, time and frequencies, we programmed the two FT-736R's with the correct freqs, accounting for Doppler shift. When Mir approaches us, our RX freq must be higher than the Mir's TX freq, but our TX freq must be lower than Mir's RX freq, about 10 kHz difference at the horizons, and when Mir is overhead, with no relative radial velocity the TX & RX freqs are the same. We also prepared a cheat-sheet for rotor control, to make rotor control by two people easier. Dave NØUVR



(Photo by Debbie Bernardo)

and Chris KBØMMV operated the rotor. With the Mir travelling from SW to NE, and the rotor having a stop at S, a little trick was used so we wouldn't lose Mir when it passed through due S. By elevating the antenna to 180 deg, the rotor pointed S, but the antenna pointed N, so we turned the rotor N, and the

antenna pointed S. Now, by adding 180 to our azimuth display, the rotor would pass through N with no stop, pointing the ant through S with no problems.

We actually had three antennas for the contact. Originally we were told the contact would be on VHF, but it turned out to be on UHF. We had two circularly polarized Yagis (a KLM 2M-22C for VHF, and a KLM 435-18C for UHF), and for backup, a dual-band omni J-pole.

Tom NØNTX brought all his skills into play to make sure the radios were both working fine for the contact. Problem: since we were originally expecting the contact to be on VHF simplex, I didn't think twice when loaned a radio without a tone board. By the time we learned we'd be on UHF, I had forgotten about the missing tone board in one radio. On UHF, Mir requires a tone for access, so before we even got started we were down to one radio with no backup. The other 736, the amplifier and the power supplies all worked perfectly, though. And we were covered if we lost commercial power - the El Paso County Search and Rescue had their comm van there with the generator running just in case.

Media coverage was certainly important, but the media tends to put out their fires with short notice. The problem was us getting the word out to as many places as possible. Because of Ron NKØP's efforts, we did get coverage from three TV stations (two of them mentioned the PPRAA by name) and newspaper coverage by the Woodmen Edition, a neighborhood newspaper. And we wanted to make sure the local amateur community could participate, even if they couldn't be there. So we retransmitted the audio from the FT-736 and the students to the PPFMA repeater so all could hear. We did numerous tests to make sure the VHF transmissions didn't interfere with the UHF contact.

At about 0830, the selected students were in the gym, some a little nervous, others relaxed, even as the news crews began to interview them. The kids were asked how they felt getting a chance to talk directly to an astronaut. Responses came like, "I've always wanted to talk to an astronaut!", or "I really want be an astronaut when I grow up!" Fifteen minutes later, the rest of the 3rd through 5th graders filed in, the noise level grew, and adrenalin flowed even more. Several

hams were scattered around the gym and on stage recording this event on their camcorders.

At about 0850 I addressed the audience, briefly describing what they would see on the STSPLUS screen, and telling them what would happen in the next half hour. Then at about 0900 I just let everyone watch the screen. Will Marchant KC6ROL, our AMSAT mentor, called to make sure we were operating, had the correct freqs programmed in, were pointing the antennas correctly, and had the correct time. Some past contacts have failed because people didn't set their computer clock to the correct time! At about 0905, Jeff Ryan NØWPA began calling, "UØMIR, this is WAØVTU, over." Shortly after 0907, we got our reply. "Hello, this is Andy Thomas, and I'm an astronaut." My wife Dorothy KCØBSY later told me that kids and parents alike threw their arms in the air, but held their vocal expressions, as Andy's voice came loudly across the gym's PA speakers.

Andy briefly described some of his activities on Mir then one by one the kids began asking their questions: "What happens if you run out of oxygen?", "Does it feel different if you hurt yourself in space?", or "How does drinking feel different in space than on Earth?" Only six of ten students asked their questions before the signal began to fade. Then Mir passed below the horizon. Just before it was gone, though, all 300+ kids yelled a loud, "Goodbye Andy!" Don't know if he heard it or not, but if he did, what did it sound like? Nevertheless, the four years of preparing was over in ten minutes.

After the awe and excitement subsided, our two guest speakers picked up where Andy left off. Major Mike Caylor of the USAFA and former astronaut trainer Eric Joern answered several dozen more questions from kids and parents, and from the other 4 students that didn't get their questions answered by Andy Thomas. Finally at about 1000, the PHE faculty decided that the kids had to get back to other studies, so the gym eventually became empty. The leftover pamphlets were scattered about, but most of the 400 printed went to the kids, staff and parents attending. Originally started by Marilyn French, then completed by Dave Kurth and Chris Fox, the pamphlet described SAREX, Mir, the PPRAA, and offered a brief

chronology of the contact. In about an hour, there was no trace of the excitement left in the gym, but kids will be talking about this for a long time.

Just a Memory

The antennas finally came down on March 12, leaving only the mast put up by District 20. The last thing to do was distribute the commemorative sweatshirts to the ten selected students. Early on, I recruited the help of Karen Garbee N1FED who has done graphics work in the past. She came up with the design and provided artwork for the sweatshirts. LinCom Corp (where I work) offered to pay for the shirts (as well as the pamphlet printing). Their nearly \$600 donation helped make this a success. Sweatshirts were produced by Shirt Stop, the same place that makes our club jacket. The kids got their sweatshirts on March 17. If anyone wants their own commemorative shirt, let me know and we'll place an order. I'll bring in a sample to the next club meeting. The cost is about \$16. There's also several video tapes that need to be edited into one tape so we can play it at an upcoming club meeting, and put a copy in the club archives, along with other memorabilia, like photos, the news article from the Woodmen Edition newspaper and e-mail.

As with any project of this magnitude, it's always a team effort, from participating in the contact, to installing the antenna, publicity, equipment loans, artwork, or just answering questions. Many hams from the PPRAA and other clubs helped, as did the PHE and D-20 staff, and even some of my neighbors and officemates. Here's my list of those helping (PLEASE let me know if I missed anyone so I can give credit where credit is due): AE0B, K0SU, K0TER, K2LCT, KA3HDO, KB0IAP, KB0LWJ, KB0MMV, KB0PPM, KB0REF, KB0RKW, KB0WFL, KC0BSY, KC5LXC, KC6ROL, KD6FLM, KF0WF, N0ABC, N0EPF, N0IEM, N0IKF, N0MHQ, N0NTX, N0PRY, KB0QFY, N0QJS, N0UOD, N0UVR, N0WPA, N0ZUQ, N1FED, N3EUA, N7LV, NK0P, W0VO, W6RML, WA1STO, WA3EIB, WB0IMH, WD0E, WD0FHG, WU3H, Tony Acosta, Steve Alsup, Nanette Anderson, Rose Carson, Maj Mike Caylor, Michael Chamberlin, Chris Clopton, Kathy Crawford, Sally Douglass, Peggy Healer, Paul Hedges, Ron

Horne, Eric Joern, Roger Johnson, Sherri Kaderka, Dorothy Lindsey, William Lindsey, Cathie Padgett, Krista Roller, Henry Russell, Debbie Thiem, Jane Wisner and to AMSAT, ARRL, NASA, PPFMA, the students Jessica Alsup, Crissy Bernardo, Craig Bishop, Colin Clark, Kyle Joern, Cameron Lee, Erin Overstreet, Kaylan Plantt, Jessica Rodgers, Gregory Sugano, and astronaut Andy Thomas KD5CHF.

de N7LV

ARLB020 FCC changes for ULS

FCC proposes changes to implement Universal Licensing System

In a sweeping Notice of Proposed Rulemaking the FCC has suggested several rules changes that could affect Amateur Radio, including replacement of the venerable FCC Form 610. NPRM Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services," seeks comments on proposals to replace Form 610 with FCC Form 605, to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the US; to privatize the issuance of club station licenses; and to require applicants and licensees to supply a taxpayer identification number (TIN) and to file electronically. The FCC also plans to consolidate the application procedures for all Wireless Telecommunications Services into a single set of rules. All of these proposals are part of the FCC's efforts to implement the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System (ULS).

Ultimately, the FCC intends to require all applicants, as appropriate, to file all applications and notifications electronically.

The FCC says it's tentatively concluded that there is "little or no need to continue issuing the reciprocal permit" (FCC Form 610-AL) for alien amateur licensees because the license from any foreign country with which the US has a reciprocal agreement would "stand as the proof that the foreign operator is qualified for the reciprocal operating authority. Reciprocal operation under the new regime would be

"by rule," which means no special action is necessary on the applicant's part, and the elimination of Form 610-A.

For club station licenses, the FCC proposes to accept the services of VEC-like organizations as volunteer club station call sign administrators. Prospective organizations would have to complete a pilot autogrant batch filing project before being authorized as call sign administrators.

Under the ULS, applicants or licensees would have to supply a TIN, usually a Social Security number, or "its functional equivalent." The FCC says this is "consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996." To allay fears of misuse of TINs, the FCC says the ULS system would be designed so that TINs will not be available to the public and "only a small number of Commission employees would have access to TIN information in conjunction with their work." The FCC says a Privacy Act submission would be published in the Federal Register "to obtain the requisite public and Congressional comment and Office of Management and Budget approval prior to implementation of the ULS system."

A text version of the entire rulemaking proposal is at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98025.txt> (or see the link from the FCC home page). The proposal was released March 20. Comments are due to the FCC 30 days after publication in The Federal Register. Reference WT Docket 98-20. The FCC will not accept e-mail comments on Docket WT 98-20.

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEWLY LICENSED HAMS

The results of the HAM Classes are now in and with the test sessions on both the 11th of February and the 11th of March, the HAM Community has a total of 20 new HAM Operators that went through the HAM Classes at the Tesla Society. Here is the list of new HAMs.

CONGRATULATIONS !

WELCOME ONE AND ALL

COME TO THE NEXT HAM CLUB MEETING AND
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HAMMING IN
COLORADO

February 25, 1998

KCØCTZ - Raymond B. Forst - - Novice
KCØCSV - Allan K. King - Technician
KCØCSW - Vernon L. Sallie - Technician
KCØCSX - Eugene H. Cottrill - Technician
KCØCSY - Rolf U. Kay - Technician +
KCØCSZ - Dennis L. Harvey - Technician
KCØCTA - Ron E. Cramer - Novice

March 17, 1998

KCØCYO - Merilee M Throckmorton -Technician
KCØCYQ - Manuel M. Villalobos Jr. Technician
KCØCYR - S. Collyn Symmes Technician
KCØCYS - Steven R. Symmes Technician
KCØCYT - Kent E. Wolcott Technician
KCØCYU - Edna C. Ferrara Technician
KCØCYW -RL Cline Jr. Technician
KCØCYV - Leonard M. Hodges Technician
KCØCYX - Dale K. Weakley Technician
KCØCYY - Nancy J. Drummond Technician
KCØCYZ - Cameron M. Redwine Technician
KCØCZA - Eva L. Embrey Technician
KCØCZB - Alwyn A. Throckmorton Technician

The following students upgraded to tech plus on March 17, 1998:

KCØCSW - Vernon Sallie
KCØCSV - Allan King

Here are the stats:

21 students took a test(s)
13 passed resulting in a no-code tech license
2 upgraded to tech plus
1 passed element 2
1 passed element 3B

Also another big THANK YOU goes out to all the HAM's that helped in anyway with the classes this year. Without you all this good work could not be accomplished. Special thanks to Frank-KFØWF and Pat-KBØREF for their tireless work on redoing the entire class program. This was a very time consuming endeavor. And also to the VE team that administered the special testing sessions on two Wednesday nights.

Also a great big THANK YOU to the Tesla Society for donating their building and electricity so that we the HAM community could benefit from their donation in the future.

Linda K. Hedges - KBØRKW
Education Liaison

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